

TALES

of

GNOSIS



COLLEGE

VOLUME I  
NUMBER IV

# APSINTHION

## PROTOCOL



WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS  
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS



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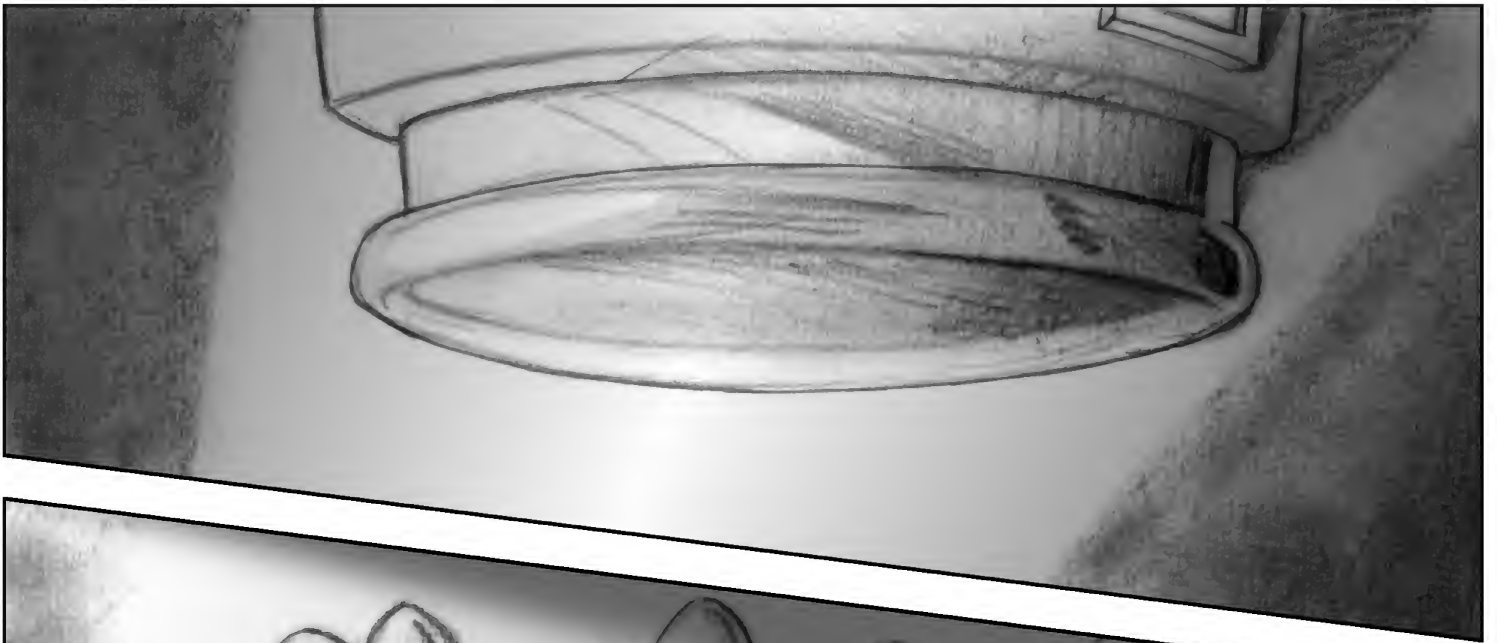




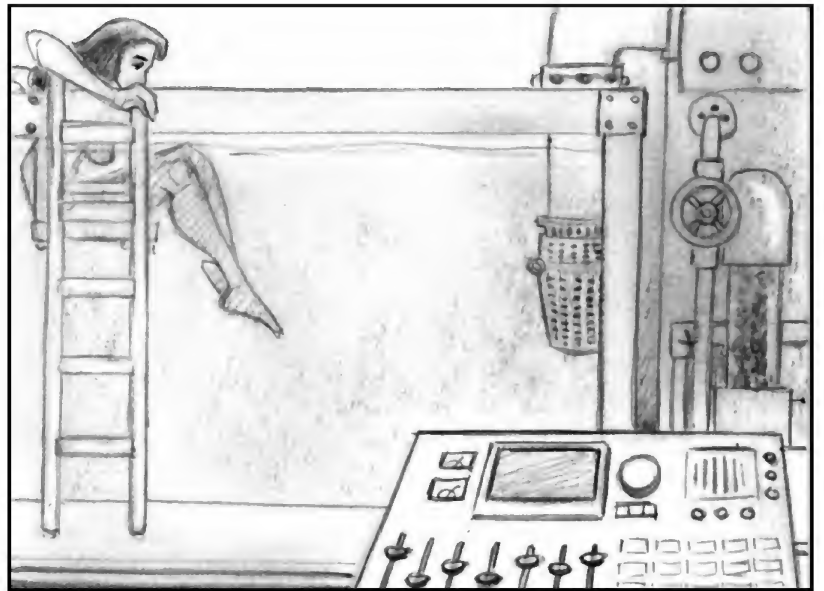
"APSINTHION PROTOCOL"  
CHAPTER 4

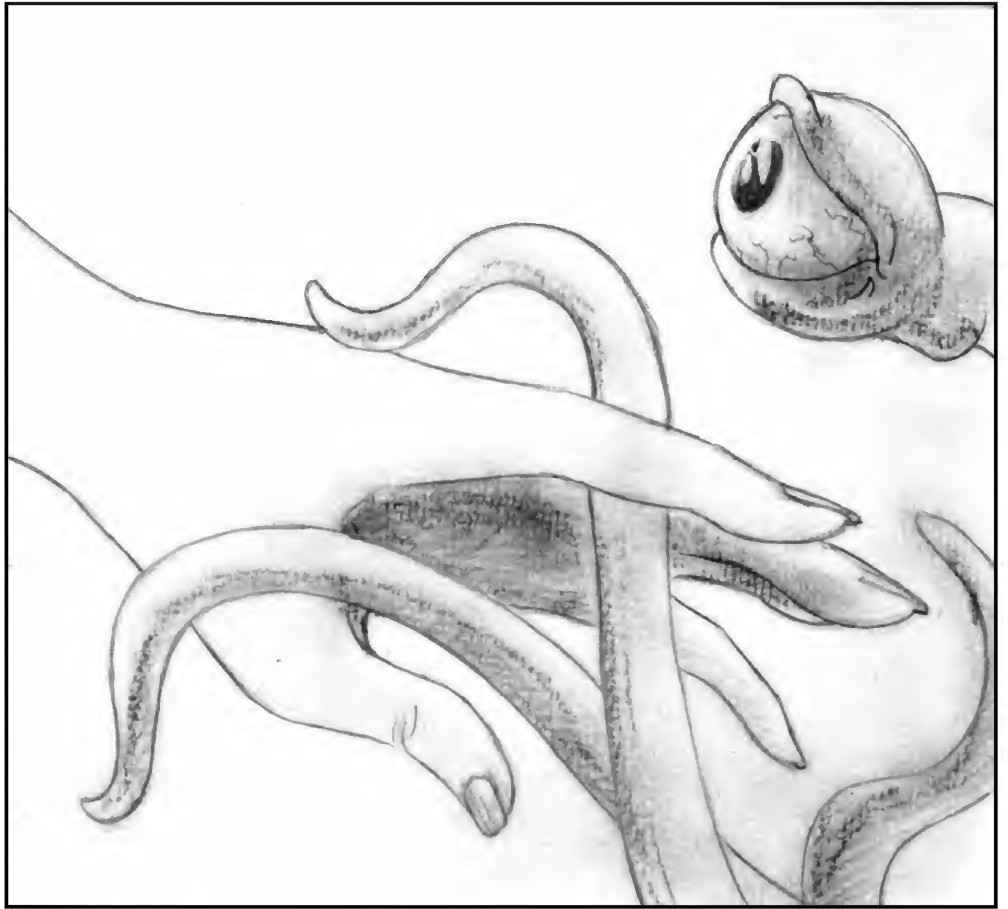
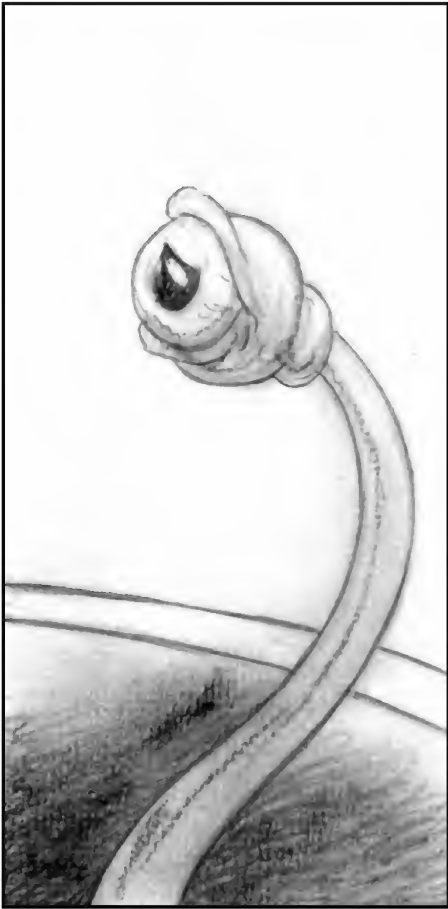
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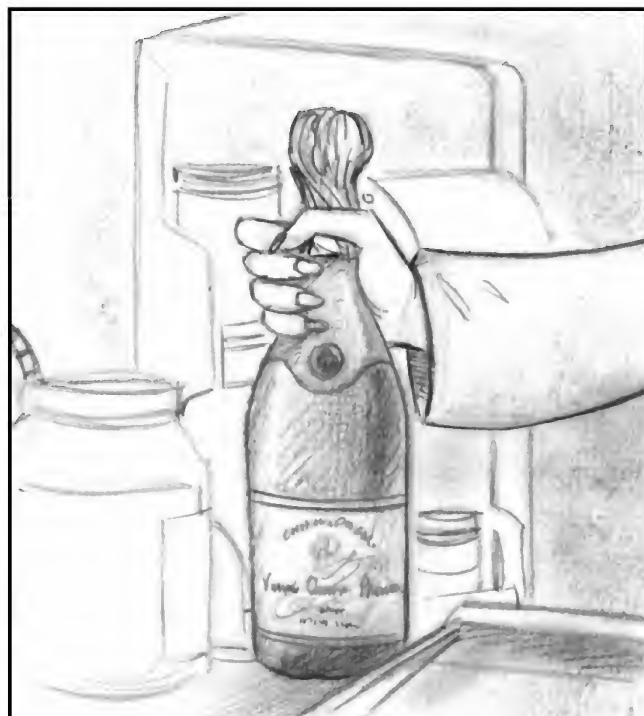


REMIND THIS HOPELESSLY  
MIDDLE-AGED SCIENTIST —  
DID WE DISTILL FIVE OR SIX  
PHIALS OF ουσια επιθυμιας ON  
OUR LAST PROTOCOL RUN?

I WAS  
SOMEWHAT  
DISTRACTED BY  
METAPHYSICAL  
REVERIE, BUT I  
THINK...FIVE.



SECURE THEM PLEASE. I  
NEED TO RUSH OFF TO  
THIS MEETING AT MIT. I  
LEAVE THE LAB IN YOU  
LADIES' GOOD HANDS.







...AS IF I CAN JUST WALK  
INTO MY DREAMS.

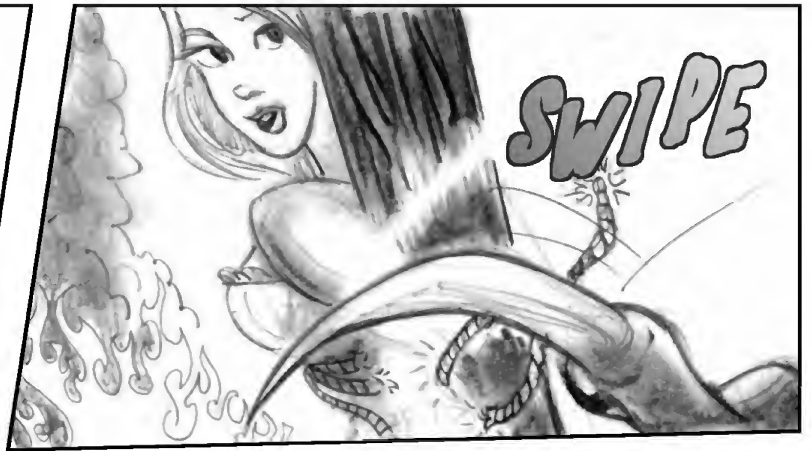
BACK, FOUL FIEND!  
HELLSPAWN! HARM  
THIS FAIR MAIDEN  
AND THOU SHALT  
TASTE MY STEEL!







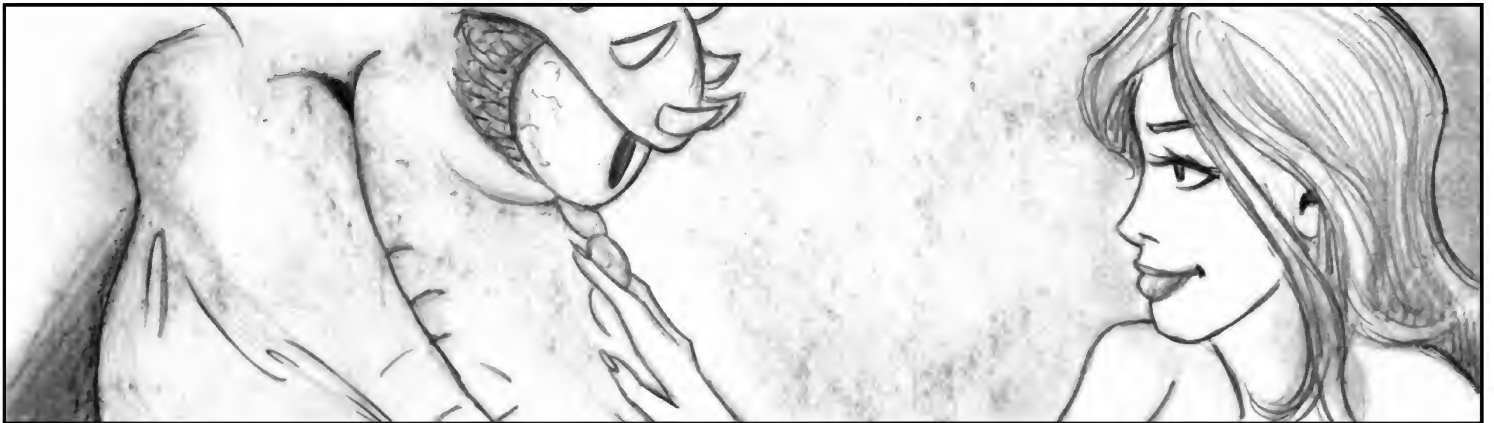




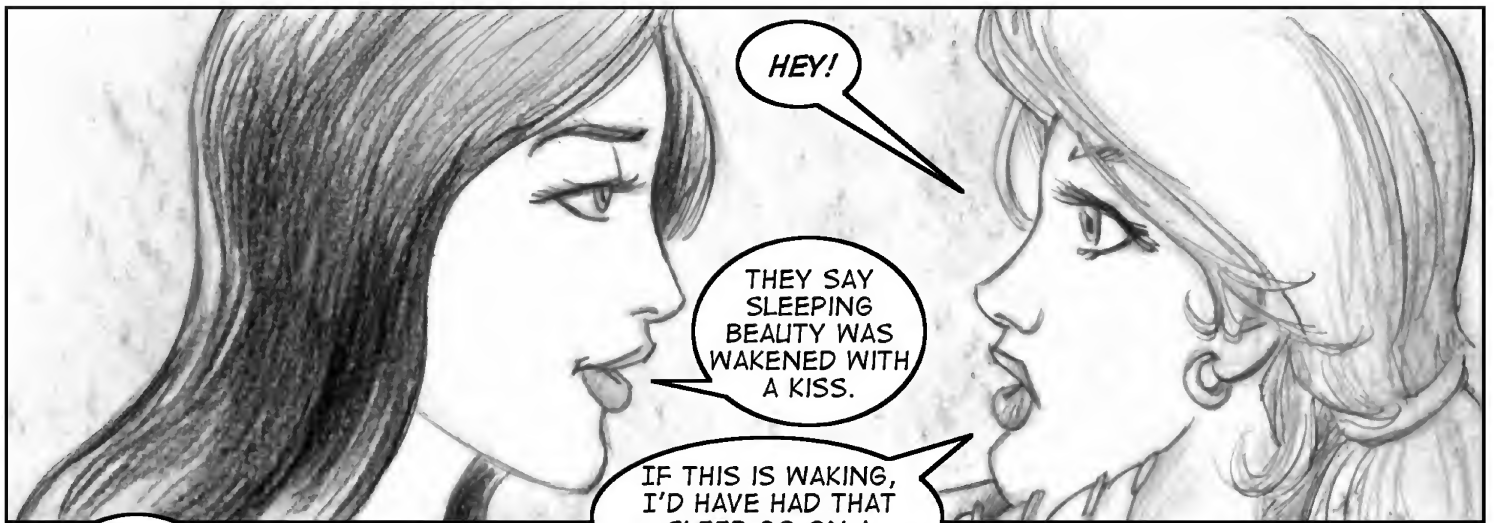












HEY!

THEY SAY  
SLEEPING  
BEAUTY WAS  
WAKENED WITH  
A KISS.

IF THIS IS WAKING,  
I'D HAVE HAD THAT  
SLEEP GO ON A  
*LITTLE* LONGER!

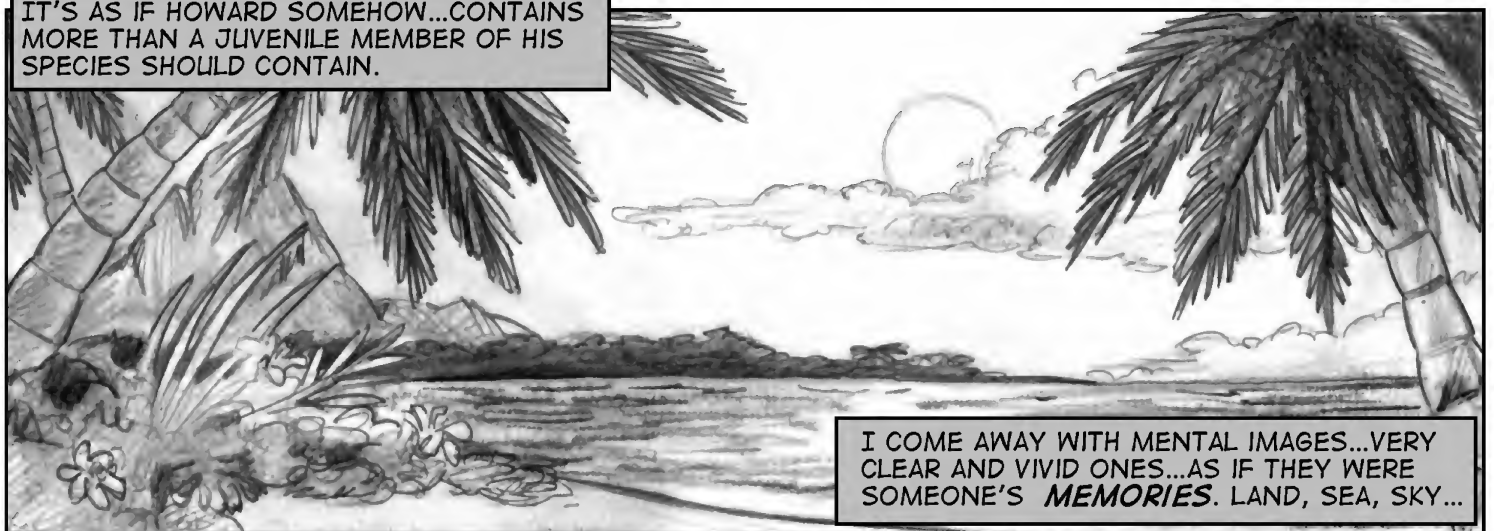
PERHAPS,  
MOIRA, IF YOU  
WERE TO TELL  
NANETTA WHAT  
YOU TOLD ME  
ABOUT YOUR  
CONTACTS WITH  
HOWARD...

SHE MIGHT  
FIND  
*REALITY* A  
LITTLE MORE  
INTERESTING.

WELL...



IT'S AS IF HOWARD SOMEHOW...CONTAINS  
MORE THAN A JUVENILE MEMBER OF HIS  
SPECIES SHOULD CONTAIN.



I COME AWAY WITH MENTAL IMAGES...VERY  
CLEAR AND VIVID ONES...AS IF THEY WERE  
SOMEONE'S *MEMORIES*. LAND, SEA, SKY...

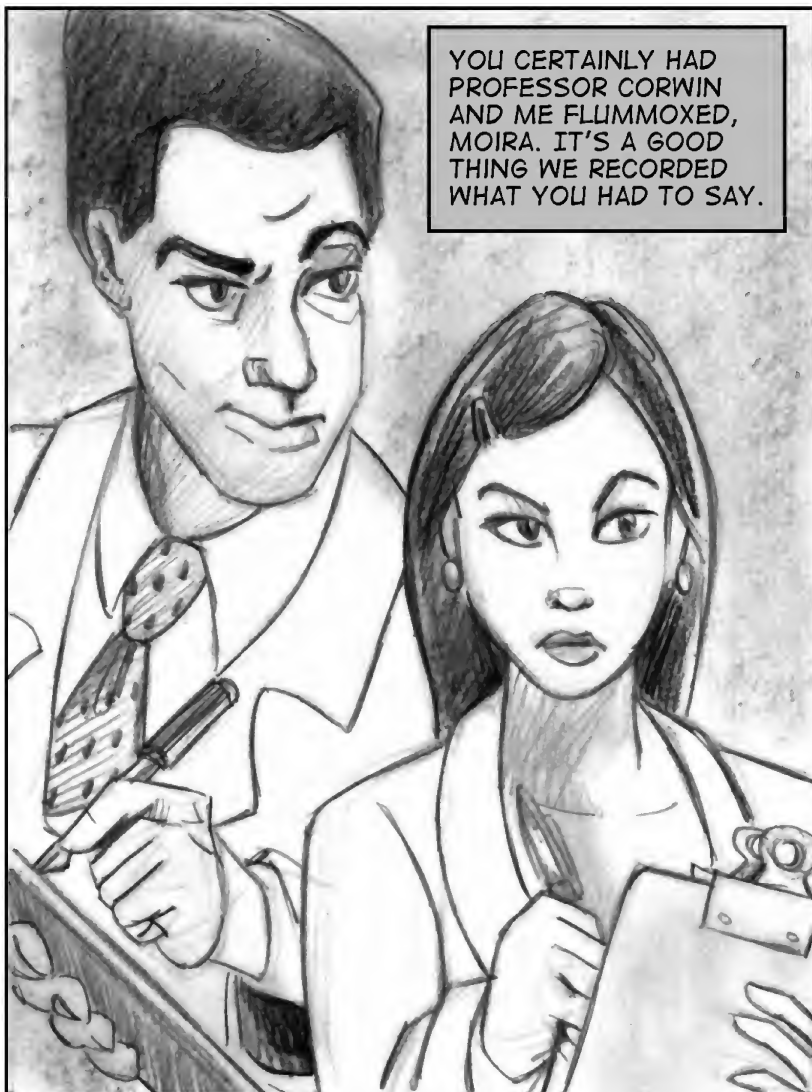
...AND **LANGUAGE**.  
AFTER MY LAST  
SESSION WITH  
HOWARD I SPENT  
SOMETHING LIKE  
THIRTY MINUTES  
SPEAKING IN SOME  
LANGUAGE I DIDN'T  
KNOW...EXCEPT THAT  
I DID, SOMEHOW.

I taniu pula en  
peluni en  
membanyui ilun-ilun  
zeberdi ti taramnya.



YOU CERTAINLY HAD  
PROFESSOR CORWIN  
AND ME FLUMMOXED,  
MOIRA. IT'S A GOOD  
THING WE RECORDED  
WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY.

A LINGUIST COLLEAGUE OF PROFESSOR  
CORWIN'S LATER IDENTIFIED THE  
LANGUAGE AS AN AUSTRONESIAN  
TONGUE LONG THOUGHT EXTINCT.



IT WOULD APPEAR  
THAT YOU'VE  
**LEARNED**  
SOMETHING FROM  
HOWARD, MOIRA.

EITHER THAT, OR  
YOU'RE REALLY  
SEVERAL HUNDRED  
YEARS OLD.

CAN I GET A  
GOVERNMENT  
GRANT IF I AM?

THE CHEMISTRY OF  
THE PROTOCOL, WHICH  
COMES FROM  
HOWARD'S SPECIES,  
FUNCTIONS AS A SORT  
OF **SCANNER**. IT  
REDUCES PEOPLE TO  
COMPRESSED  
INFORMATION — A  
STREAM OF  
MOLECULES THAT  
FUNCTION LIKE  
TRANSPORT PACKETS  
IN A NETWORK  
COMMUNICATIONS  
PROTOCOL.

THE FLUID IN THE RECONSTITUTION POOL  
CONTAINS A DENSE MATRIX OF SELF-  
REPLICATING NANOMACHINES WHICH CAN  
INTERPRET THE INFORMATION — OR RE-  
CREATE THAT INFORMATION'S SOURCE.

SO WHEN HOWARD AND I  
ARE...IN CONTACT I AM  
ABSORBING INTERPRETED  
INFORMATION FROM OTHER  
PEOPLE?

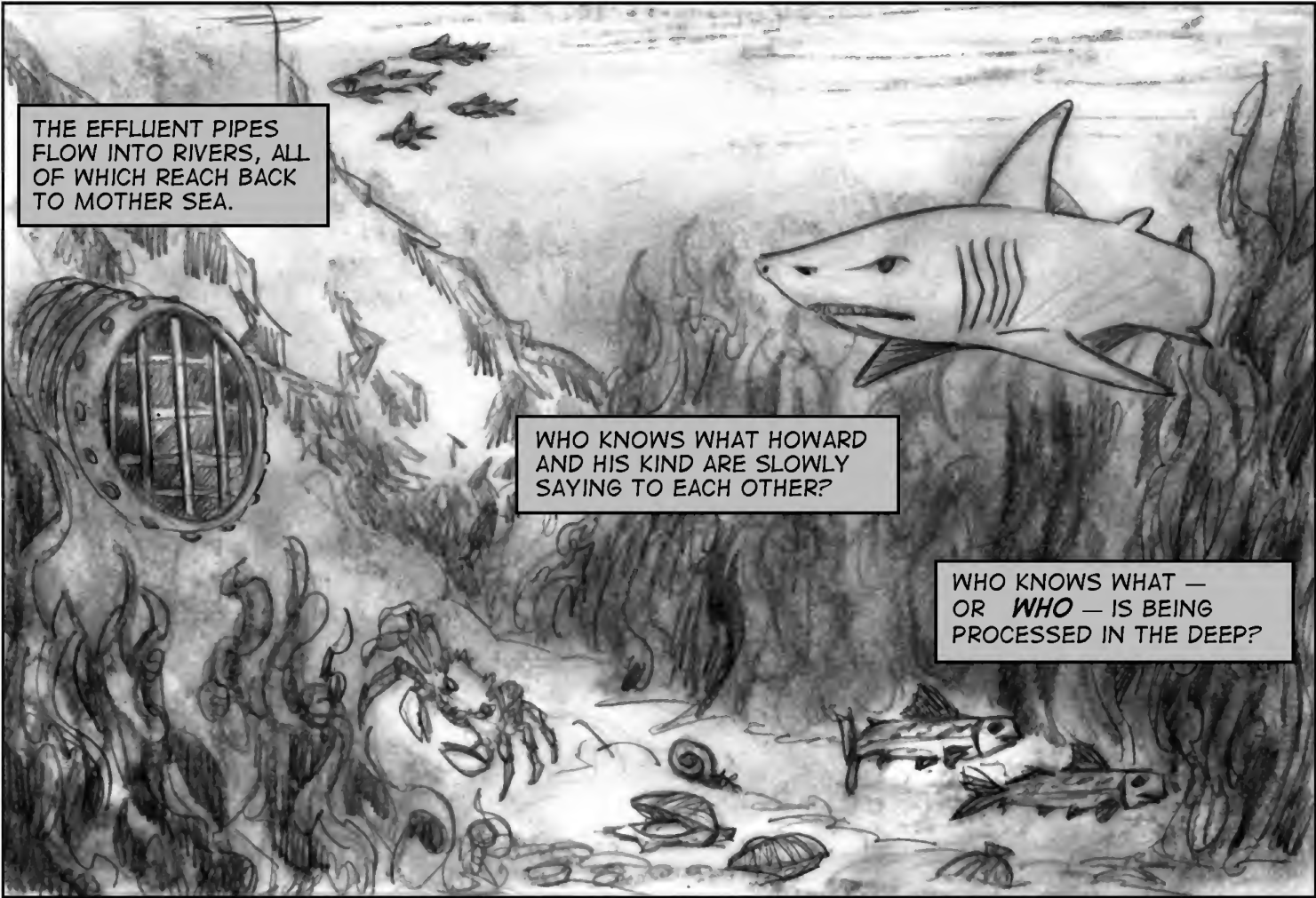
SO IT  
WOULD  
SEEM.





YOU, MOIRA, MIGHT NOT BE THE ONLY  
THING HOWARD IS IN CONTACT WITH.

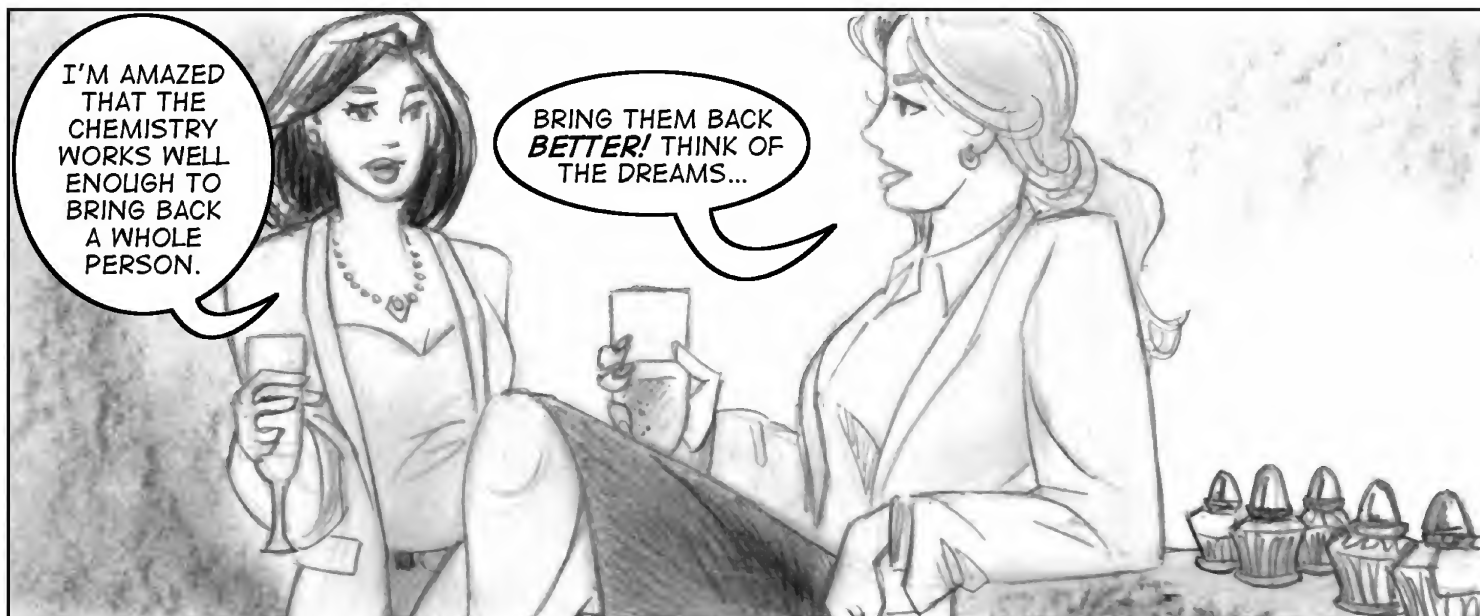
PROFESSOR  
CORWIN'S  
INSTRUMENTS  
HAVE DETECTED  
VAST NUMBERS  
OF PACKET  
MOLECULES  
FLOWING BOTH  
WAYS THROUGH  
THE PIPES  
UNDER THIS  
BUILDING.



THE EFFLUENT PIPES  
FLOW INTO RIVERS, ALL  
OF WHICH REACH BACK  
TO MOTHER SEA.

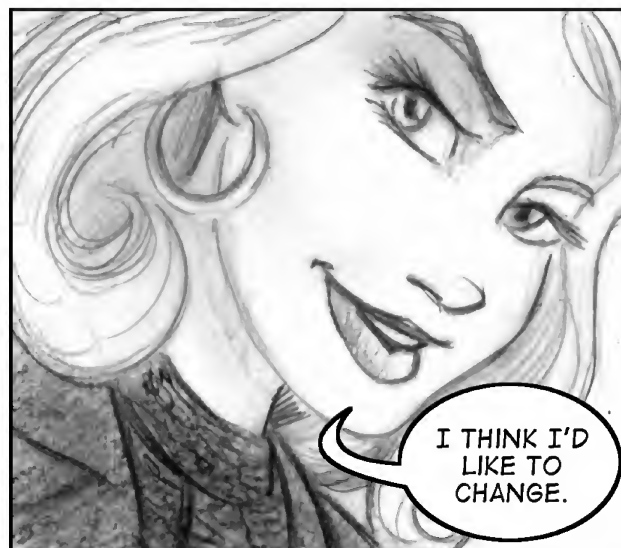
WHO KNOWS WHAT HOWARD  
AND HIS KIND ARE SLOWLY  
SAYING TO EACH OTHER?

WHO KNOWS WHAT —  
OR *WHO* — IS BEING  
PROCESSED IN THE DEEP?











WOW!

YOU SEEM  
SO...AT  
**EASE**  
BEING  
LOOKED AT.

IT'S **EASY**  
TO BE AT EASE.

AND I  
**LIKE**  
BEING  
LOOKED AT.









WHAT  
BEAUTIFUL  
BOOBS!

WHAT PERFECT,  
SCULPTED LEGS!

WHAT FAIR, GOLDEN  
TRESSES! LIKE A  
FAIRYTALE PRINCESS!

WHAT PRETTY,  
PERT NIPPLES!

WHAT  
LOVELY  
SKIN!

LOOK AT  
THAT...

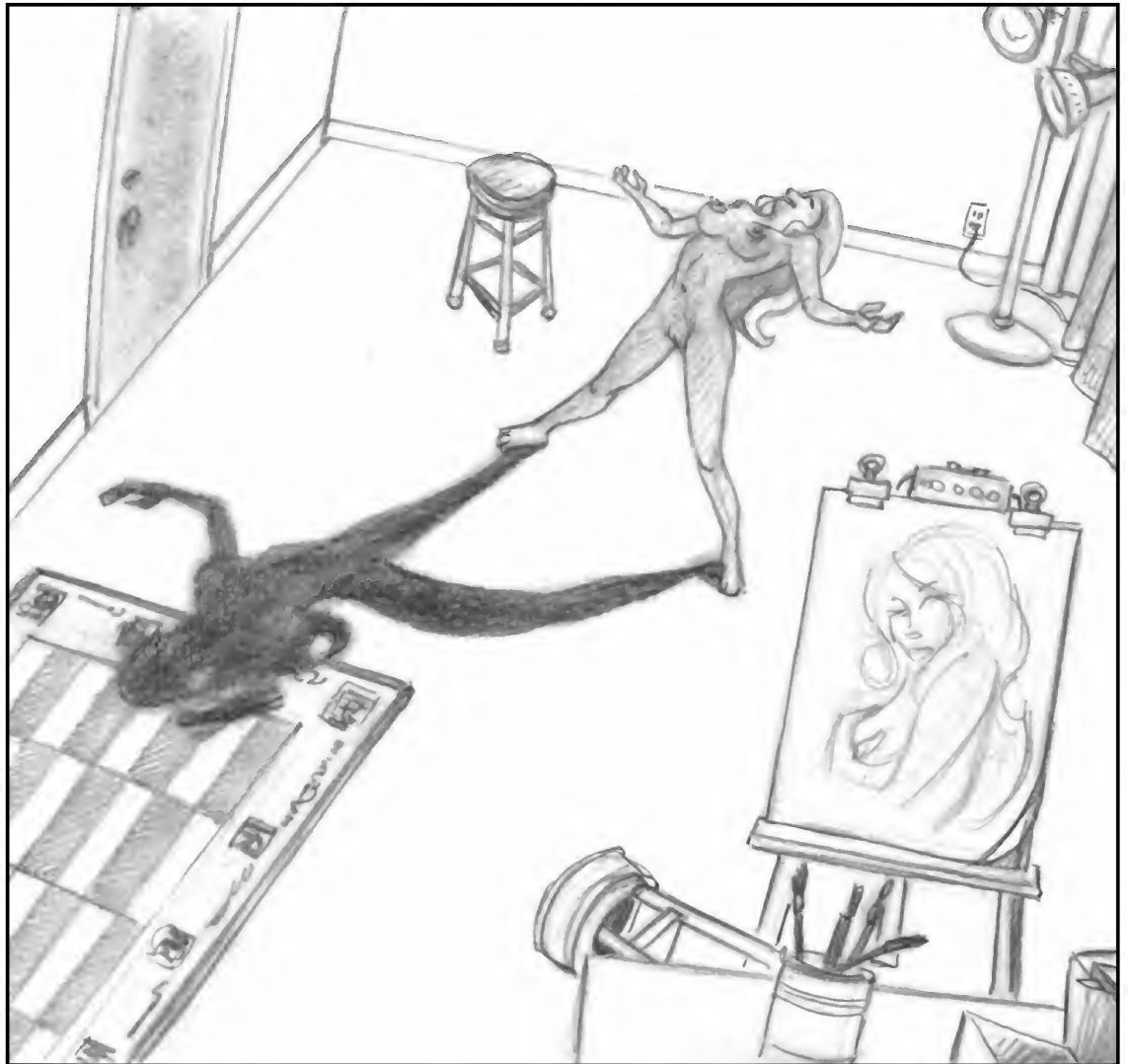
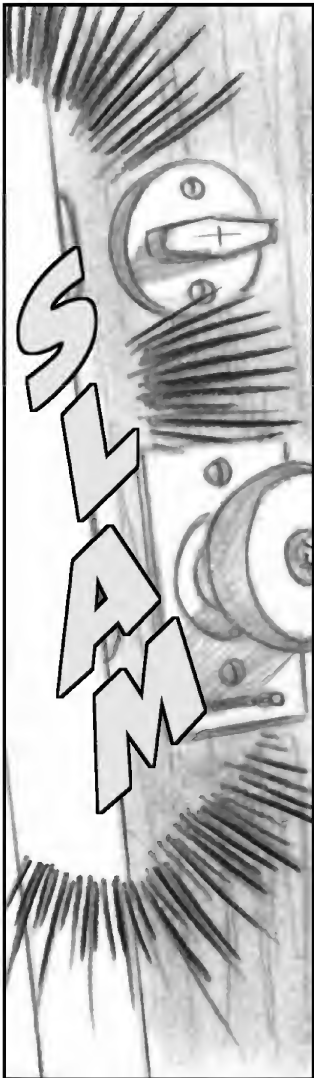
I FEEL THEIR EYES  
ON ME RIGHT NOW.

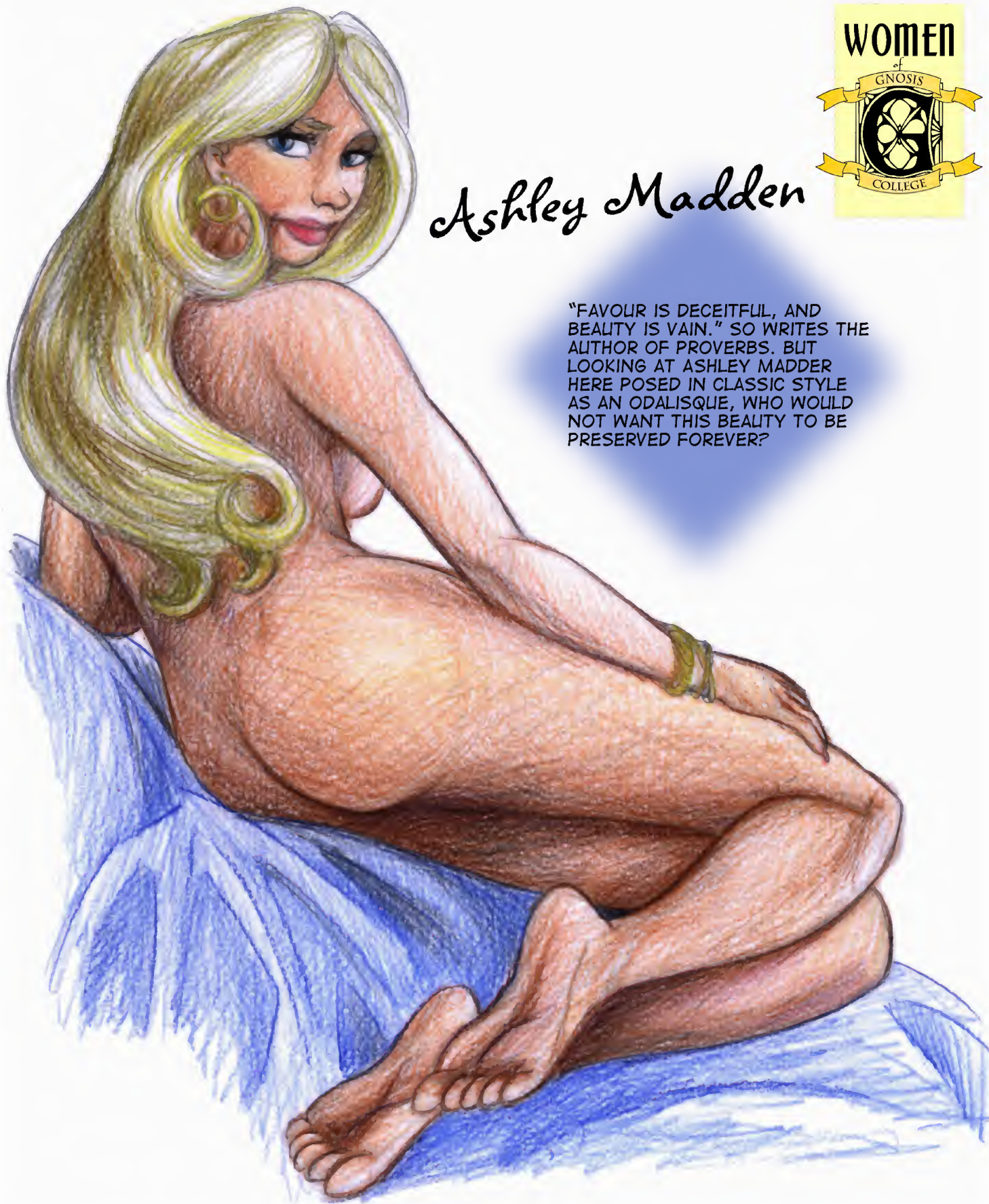












*Ashley Madden*

"FAVOUR IS DECEITFUL, AND  
BEAUTY IS VAIN." SO WRITES THE  
AUTHOR OF PROVERBS. BUT  
LOOKING AT ASHLEY MADDEN  
HERE POSED IN CLASSIC STYLE  
AS AN ODALISQUE, WHO WOULD  
NOT WANT THIS BEAUTY TO BE  
PRESERVED FOREVER?